

Since the 1960s, community health centers have grown into the largest unified primary care network in the United States. Today, we have over 1,000 community health centers nationwide, with a total of 53 in Massachusetts alone. In my own district, I am honored to represent 12 community health centers that ably serve the families of the Ninth Congressional District of Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, community health centers are pioneers in working to reduce health disparities among racial minorities and in recognizing the primary socio-economic factors that help determine health status: the lack of educational and economic opportunity, and substandard housing. They continue this work today, serving 677,000 patients in Massachusetts and 15 million nationally.

The community health center model was revolutionary in another aspect of its mission: community governance. The belief that community members could play a direct role in improving their life circumstances, including health status, was the basis of what we call the "American Community Health Center Movement." The early health centers sprung from "kitchen table discussions" among mothers and fathers and community members about the need for primary care in their neighborhoods. In 2005, health center boards of directors continue to be driven by community members who use their local community health center.

Mr. Speaker, today in this country, we have over 45 million individuals without any sort of health insurance living in both rural and urban areas; accordingly, we need Community Health Centers and the essential services they provide now more than ever. I ask that my Colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating the entire Community Health Center Movement on 40 years of helping to reduce health disparities among our most vulnerable populations through the provision of high quality, compassionate and cost-effective primary health care.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT FRAGASSO

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Robert Fragasso for all of the great work he has done as the President of the Amen Corner.

Over the past 150 years the Amen Corner has been a well known social club for businessmen and now women in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The club is known for its service to help better the community and for the events for its members. There is an annual dinner held to honor the outgoing president. This year's dinner will take place on December 14, 2005 and will honor the outgoing president, Robert Fragasso.

Robert Fragasso, the president of The Fragasso Group, is a certified financial planner. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps, graduated from Duquesne University, and did postgraduate work at Carnegie Mellon University and The University of Pittsburgh. He has recently written a book titled, *Starting Your Own Practice*, which has reached national recognition.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Robert Fragasso for all of the work he has done for the Amen Corner. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a dedicated individual such as Mr. Fragasso.

IN HONOR OF ELIZABETH ANN LEEPER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Elizabeth Ann Leeper who passed from this life on November 5, 2005.

She was a fearless and tireless community activist, who taught her children and grandchildren to always question authority and not be afraid to fight for what they believe in. Known as a political radical, Liz said, "Troublemakers have more fun."

Liz was deeply involved in the local political scene, often being referred to as "The Mayor of New Monterey." She was a charter member of the American Civil Liberties Union and was active in women's issues, the peace movement, and the Democratic Party.

Liz graduated from the University of California Berkeley with a degree in social work and education. She taught elementary and middle school on the Monterey Peninsula for 20 years. After her retirement she continued to be a mentor to anyone seeking advice, especially helping women become aware of their own potentials.

Family was of prime importance to Liz, with three husbands, Norman Godbe, Bruce Harris, and Ed Leeper; two daughters, Kira Godbe and Dana Carnazzo; and four grandchildren, Arye and Blaise Lipman and Alonzo and Tessa Camazzo. Liz adored her grandchildren and was present at each birth. One of their favorite memories of her will be the smells and sounds of grandma making pancakes for them.

The community will miss her greatly, but we know her life will continue to inspire those she touched.

HONORING RICHARD WITTEN

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Witten, this year's recipient of Columbia University's Alexander Hamilton Medal. This honor is considered the highest tribute an individual in the Columbia College community may receive from the alumni association.

Richard is a proud alumnus, established businessman, published author, generous philanthropist and distinguished member of the Columbia University administration. Richard currently serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the Columbia University Board of Trustees; chairs the Trustees' Committee on Alumni Relations and Development; and is

a member of the board of the Columbia University Investment Management Company. Additionally, Richard is the former chair of the Columbia College Board of Visitors.

Professionally, Richard has achieved significant success. Currently he is the senior managing director of the investment firm The Orienta Group. Prior to its formation, Richard began a long and successful career with Goldman, Sachs & Co. in 1981 and proudly served as a partner and managing director from 1990 to 2002. During his tenure with Goldman Sachs, Richard led numerous committees including the Fixed Income, Currency and Commodities Division Sales Force for the Americas and the Investment Grade Debt Business Unit.

Beyond his professional and alumni activities, Richard is also an author. His first novel, *Divided Loyalties*, was published in 2005 and is based on the World War II experiences of his father-in-law. His second novel, *Filmore East*, is due in 2006 and follows the turbulent events of 1968–1971 through a college student's eyes.

Richard also makes contributions of his time, energy, and money to better our community. He has provided significant funds to renovate Hamilton Hall at Columbia, is a member of the board of directors at the National Museum of American Jewish History, and is a director emeritus of the Mamaroneck Schools Foundation.

Richard is a dedicated husband to his wife Lisa and a devoted father to his children Anne and Alexander. I am proud to call him both my constituent and my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Richard Witten as he receives the Alexander Hamilton Medal.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATOR DENISE MARSHALL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor retiring Erie County Legislator Denise Marshall for her 2 years of service to the residents of the towns of Alden, Elma, Holland, Lancaster, Marilla, Sardinia and Wales.

A life-long resident of Erie County, Denise Marshall was born and raised in Cheektowaga, NY. Graduating in 1986 from Cheektowaga Central High School, Denise attended both Erie Community College and the State University of New York at Buffalo, majoring in Business Administration.

Professionally, Legislator Marshall is founder and president of Marshall Data Solutions, a computer consulting firm specializing in office automation, training and database application development for both business and governmental clients. Beginning her career as a project manager and support representative for KVS Information Systems in Amherst, NY she designed and helped support accounting applications for municipal government clients, traveling throughout the northeastern United States to implement these new technologies and provide training for office personnel.

Legislator Marshall's service, while only 2 years in length, was eventful; her service was perhaps most noteworthy for her desire to effectively serve the residents of her district.

Given that her district covered a geographic area which traverses the whole of Erie County's eastern side nearly from its northern border to its border in the south, there can be no doubt that this is a challenging task indeed.

During my initial years as a member of the New York State Legislature, I too represented a number of the same towns Legislator Marshall would later represent in the County Legislature. While Legislator Marshall, as a resident of the town of Lancaster, is not a constituent of mine, she did faithfully serve several towns that are within the confines of the 27th Congressional District, including the towns of Alden, Marilla, Holland, Sardinia and Wales. Her office's cooperation with mine was universally professional.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to honor Legislator Denise Marshall upon the occasion of her retirement as a member of the Erie County Legislature, and I want to wish to her and to her family the best of luck and Godspeed.

HONORING THE VERY REVEREND
JOSEPH MARTIN OF WILKES-
BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA, AS HE
CELEBRATES THE 40TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representative to pay tribute to Very Rev. Joseph Martin of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, who is celebrating the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Father Martin was born in Frackville, a son of the late Joseph P. Martin and Anna Martin. He was the eldest of five brothers.

He married the former Glora Matechak of Old Forge and the couple are the parents to four daughters. They also have eight grandchildren.

Father Martin was ordained by HIS Eminence Archbishop Kiprian on November 7, 1965 at St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, Pennsylvania.

He was assigned to Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in McAdoo where he served for 30 years. He was awarded the Hold Cross, Jeweled Cross and the St. Innocent Bronze Medal. He was also elevated to Archpriest.

While at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, he also served as acting rector of Holy Ghost Orthodox Church, Shenandoah; St. Mary's Orthodox Church, St. Clair; Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, Minersville and St. Michael's Orthodox Church, Mt. Carmel.

He served on the Diocesan Council for the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania and the Metropolitan Council for the Orthodox Church in America. He was a past spiritual advisor for the Central Pennsylvania District Federated Orthodox Clubs of America and national spiritual advisor for eight years for FOCA.

He served on the board of directors of the Hazleton chapter of the American Automobile Association, Hazleton Chapter American Red Cross and he is still a board member for Mid-Atlantic AAA.

Father Martin has always been very active in community projects. He was a member and

trustee of the McAdoo Fire Company where he is still remembered as "Padre." He helped coordinate the borough food pantry, was a member and past president of the McAdoo Lions Club and he served as District Governor of the Lions District 14U.

In 1995, Father Martin was assigned to Holy Resurrection Orthodox Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre. Since then, he was instrumental in helping reorganize the Wilkes-Barre Lions Club and he served as its charter president. He is a Melvin Jones Fellow, a Lions International award, and is currently chaplain of the Lions District 14W.

He serves as chief of chaplains at the Wilkes-Barre V A Medical Center, is president of the Wyoming Valley Council of Churches, serves on the pastoral advisory board of the John Heinz Rehabilitation Center, is a member of the board of trustees of St. Tikhon's Monastery, is a member of the Diocesan Council, St. Tikhon's Alumni Association, St. Tikhon's Century Association and the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards.

And while he remains an extremely active person in the community, he still finds time to cook and bake for parish dinners because no job is too big or small for "Father Joe."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Father Martin on this milestone in his life. Father Martin has enriched the lives of so many by demonstrating selfless and humble service to his fellow man in the manner that his Lord and Savior did 2,000 years ago.

HONORING STEVE FURLONG

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to a remarkable public servant and citizen from my congressional district. Steve Furlong recently announced his retirement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, bringing to a close 35 years of achievement and success managing lake projects in Central Kentucky.

Raised on a farm near the Mammoth Cave National Park, Steve's career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began in 1970 at nearby Barren River Lake where he worked as a Temporary Laborer. Within a year, he was selected as a permanent Park Ranger at Green River Lake. Steve returned to Barren River Lake in 1974 to continue work as a Park Ranger. Three years later, he was assigned to oversee the construction of the project office at Rough River Lake. Due to his outstanding performance, he was selected soon thereafter to be the permanent Park Manager at Rough River Lake.

Under Steve's management, Rough River Lake was named the 1980 National Project of the Year, among 400 Corps projects across the country. Steve was recognized for his efforts that year with receipt of both the Louisville District and the Ohio River Division Achievement Awards, along with the Commander's Award for the Louisville District. Steve was installed as Operations Manager of the Green River Area, with oversight of four regional lake projects, later that same year.

Throughout the last 25 years, Steve's adept management and work ethic on behalf of the

U.S. Corps of Army Engineers has established four nationally recognized recreational sites that will be enjoyed by many for generations to come. During his tenure, lake facilities have been upgraded and improved to meet changing demands, supporting high quality outdoor recreational experiences for over six million people each year. Combined, the Green River Area now contributes an estimated annual \$1.7 million to the regional economy.

In addition to his professional responsibilities, Steve Furlong has built a legacy as a model citizen and community leader, volunteering for a variety of local organizations including Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, the Board of Hospice, Boy Scouts of America, and Youth League Baseball.

It is my great privilege to recognize Steve Furlong today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his leadership and service. His unique achievements and unwavering dedication to the communities of the Green River Area make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ZOYA
ROISMAN STEINBERG

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable woman, Zoya Roisman Steinberg, whose son, Moshe Steinberg is a constituent.

Zoya Roisman Steinberg, who survived the Holocaust and was a pioneer of the State of Israel with her husband Jacob Steinberg, died on October 23, 2005, at nearly 100 years of age. After VE Day, Zoya joined the exodus of Jewish survivors en route from Eastern Europe to Palestine. Her guide was a decorated Russian officer, named Jacob Steinberg, who had fought with the Allies from Stalingrad to Berlin after his family was killed by Nazis in their Odessa home. Zoya and Jacob navigated through treacherous post-war Eastern Europe and endured two years in a Cyprus detention center for Jewish immigrants to Palestine before Israel's recognition as a State in 1948. They then entered Israel and built there a home, a family with their cherished son Moshe, and a country out of the desert and the ashes of war.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUN-
TY LEGISLATOR ALBERT
DEBENEDETTI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a friend and fellow public official whose unique and energetic service to the residents of Erie County will long be remembered. I rise to commemorate and honor the service of Erie County Legislator Albert DeBenedetti.

Serving as a legislator since his initial appointment in 1991, Al DeBenedetti brought a quick wit and a keen intellect to the deliberations of the Erie County Legislature. Often